

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5459

To direct the Secretary of the Army to recommend a water resources development and conservation project for authorization by Congress only if the project has projected benefits that are at least 1.5 times as great as the project's estimated total cost, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2000

Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TANCREDI, and Ms. MCKINNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Army to recommend a water resources development and conservation project for authorization by Congress only if the project has projected benefits that are at least 1.5 times as great as the project's estimated total cost, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Corps of Engineers
5 Benefit-Cost Improvement Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRED BENEFIT-COST RATIO.**

2 (a) RECOMMENDATION OF PROJECTS.—Beginning in
3 fiscal year 2001, in the case of a water resources develop-
4 ment and conservation project that is subject to a benefit-
5 cost analysis (including any project that has been contin-
6 gently authorized subject to a favorable report from the
7 Chief of Engineers), the Secretary of the Army shall only
8 recommend the project for authorization by Congress, and
9 shall only choose the project as a recommended alternative
10 in any record of decision or environmental impact state-
11 ment, if the project, in addition to meeting any other cri-
12 teria required by law, has projected benefits that are at
13 least 1.5 times as great as the project's estimated total
14 cost.

15 (b) REVIEW AND DEAUTHORIZATION OF
16 PROJECTS.—

17 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall review each water resources development and
20 conservation project described in paragraph (2) to
21 determine whether the project has projected benefits
22 that are less than 1.5 times as great as the project's
23 estimated total cost.

24 (2) PROJECTS SUBJECT TO REVIEW.—A water
25 resources development and conservation project shall
26 be subject to review under paragraph (1) if—

1 (A) the project is currently authorized;

2 (B) the project is a project that is subject
3 to a benefit-cost analysis; and

4 (C) less than 33 percent of the project's
5 estimated total cost (other than costs of pre-
6 liminary engineering and design) have been ex-
7 pended.

8 (3) DEAUTHORIZATIONS.—Upon completion of
9 the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
10 transmit to Congress a list of each project that has
11 projected benefits that are less than 1.5 times as
12 great as the project's estimated total cost. A project
13 included on the list is not authorized after the date
14 that is 3 years after the date of transmittal of the
15 list to Congress unless the project is reauthorized by
16 law.

17 (4) DEAUTHORIZED PROJECTS FOR WHICH
18 CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN INITIATED.—In the case
19 of a project that is deauthorized under paragraph
20 (3) and for which construction (other than prelimi-
21 nary engineering and design) has been initiated, the
22 Secretary may take such actions as may be nec-
23 essary with respect to the project to protect public
24 health and safety and the environment.

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